

MINUTES  
WEST LAFAYETTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
609 West Navajo St., West Lafayette, Indiana  
Lower Level Conference Room

February 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. Commissioners present were Steve Bruhn, Bill Baitinger, Linda Cohen and new mayoral appointees; John Knoté and Sue Scholer. Mr. Baitinger presided.

There was a brief introduction by existing and new members. Linda Cohen, Steve Bruhn, John Knoté and Sue Scholer were sworn in by Mayor Dennis.

Old Business:

Mr. Knoté motioned to approve the February 8, 2008 minutes. Mr. Bruhn seconded. The minutes were accepted as submitted with a vote of 5-0.

New Business:

- Election of Officers

The 2009 Economic Development Commission elected the following officers:

President                      Linda Cohen  
On motion of Bill Baitinger, seconded by John Knoté with a vote of 5-0.

Vice President              William Baitinger  
On motion of Sue Scholer, seconded by John Knoté with a vote of 5-0.

Secretary                     Steve Bruhn  
On motion of Linda Cohen, seconded John Knoté with a vote of 5-0.

Ms. Cohen presided from this point. Mayor Dennis recognized Linda Cohen's recent award distinction from the YWCA.

Economic Development Commission Attorney, Thomas L. Brooks, Jr. gave an explanation of the background and primary purpose of the Commission. Businesses applying for tax abatement make their presentation to the Economic Development Commission before going to the Common Council. Mr. Baitinger said the Commission acts an advisory body whose function is to interview and gather information from people requesting tax abatement. The Commission usually meets two

to three times a year. Attorney Brooks commented tax abatement is a way to stimulate economic development. At present, there are no businesses applying for tax abatement.

A copy of the Tax Abatement Handbook was distributed. Mr. Baitinger noted the handbook revision was started last year. It was agreed to resume the handbook revision project. The handbook will be reviewed by the members, edited with their comments and evaluated by Attorney Brooks, Mayor Dennis and Director of Development Chandler Poole. A meeting to discuss the revisions will be scheduled in June.

Attorney Brooks explained that companies receiving tax abatements must file a CF-1 (Statement of Compliance) form annually. This confirms that the increase in jobs and salaries as stated on the original application and SB-1 (Statement of Benefits) form is being met. Mayor Dennis commented the Commission should remain flexible and consider each opportunity.

Ms. Cohen inquired about the Commission's authority to bond. Attorney Brooks explained that it's a power that the Commission has, however it mostly goes through the Redevelopment Authority. There was further discussion regarding the Commission's bonding authority. The authority of the Economic Development Commission to bond is established by IC 36 7-12.

Mr. Knotte inquired as to the relationship between the Economic Development Commission and the Redevelopment Commission. The Redevelopment Commission has the authority to spend funds within the three TIF Districts; which are the Sagamore Parkway TIF District, The Levee/Village TIF District and the Kalberer/Cumberland/Blackbird TIF District. If the Economic Development Commission approves a request for tax abatement in one of the TIF areas, it is approved by the Redevelopment Commission before proceeding to the Common Council. Both the Economic Development Commission and the Redevelopment Authority have the authority to buy and sell property for the City.

Public Comment:

There was no further discussion.

There being no further business, Ms. Scholer moved to adjourn. Mr. Bruhn seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:38p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steve Bruhn", is written over a horizontal line.

Steve Bruhn, Secretary

/djkl